

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IS, JO

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO ANERA'S FY 1977 PROPOSALS

1. ANER'S JERUSALEM REP SELZ INFORMED US OF APRIL 28 MEETING WITH ISRAELI MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICIALS. MSW CALLED IN SELZ TO INFORM HIM OF ITS REVIEW OF ANERA FY 1977 PROPOSED SUB-GRANTS (AS OUTLINED FIRST PARAGRAPH JERUSALEM 452) WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO GOI IN NOVEMBER 1976. MSW DEPUTY DG AVITSOUR TOLD SELZ THAT MINISTRY DISAPPROVED FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

(1) ARAB WOMEN'S UNION, NABLUS - ITTAHAD HOSPITAL (\$100,000) - DISAPPROVED BY HEALTH MINISTRY BECAUSE ITTAHAD HOSPITAL IS A PRIVATE COMMERCIAL HOSPITAL NOT NEEDED BECAUSE OF NEW GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN NABLUS.

(2) HEBRON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY (\$50,000) - MILGOV DISAPPROVED BECAUSE HEBRON MAYOR HAS ACCESS TO "ALTERNATE SOURCES" FOR NEEDED FUNDS.

(3) GAZA MUNICIPALITY SLUM SEWERAGE PROJECT (\$50,000) - MILGOV DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS IS PRIORITY PROJECT.

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(4) METAL WORK DESIGN AND PRODUCTION TRAINING CENTER, BETHLEHEM (\$63,000) - MSW DISAPPROVED BECAUSE IT CONSIDERS IT A COMMERCIAL PROJECT.

(5) RAMALLAH POULTRY PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE (\$30,000) - REASONS FOR DISAPPROVAL NOT SPECIFIED BUT IT APPEARED TO RAISE SOME CONTROVERSY.

2. IN EXPLAINING DISAPPROVALS AVITSOUR INSISTED ON GOI RIGHT TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES ALONG WITH ANERA FOR AID PROJECTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. SELZ COUNTERED BY REITERATING ANERA'S UNDERSTANDING THAT AID-FUNDED PROJECTS IN THE TERRITORIES ARE TO BE DETERMINED BY ANERA, WITH GOI APPROVAL. AFTER LENGTHY AND HEATED DISCUSSION, MSW AGREED TO REVIEW AGAIN EACH OF THE DISAPPROVED PROJECTS AND AGREED TO FURTHER MEETING WITH SELZ ON MAY 18.

3. TOWARD END OF MEETING AVITSOUR SUGGESTED CERTAIN ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS FOR ANERA'S CONSIDERATION WHICH WERE MOSTLY RELATED TO WOMEN'S SOCIETIES AND STRICTLY CHARITABLE TYPE RECIPIENTS. SELZ INDICATED THAT ANERA WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER THESE PROJECTS BUT ONLY AFTER FINAL DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN ON ORIGINAL LIST.

4. SELZ TELLS US THAT THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION AVITSOUR SPOKE OF NEED FOR QUOTE JOINT UNQUOTE ANERA-MSW DEVELOPMENT AND PREPARATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS BEFORE SUBMISSION TO AID. (WE ARE PROVIDING TO NEA/IAI COPY OF REPORT OF APRIL 28 MEETING FOR ANERA PREPARED BY SELZ - PLEASE PROTECT.) SELZ HAS IMPRESSION MSW WILLING HAVE ANERA PARTICIPATE IN CHARITABLE PROJECTS IN WHICH IT, MSW, HAS AN INTEREST. HE ALSO BELIEVES MSW CHARY OF ANERA-FUNDED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT AVITSOUR'S COMMENTS, IF THEY REFLECT OFFICIAL GOI POLICY, WOULD INDICATE A CHANGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARD AID-FUNDED VOLAGS OPERATING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. HIS COMMENTS THAT ISRAELIS SHOULD DETERMINE PRIORITIES AS TO WHICH AID PROJECTS ARE APPROVED AND HIS REPEATED REFERENCE TO QUOTE JOINT UNQUOTE ANERA-MSW DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT PROPOSALS, BOTH MAKE EXPLICITLY AN ISRAELI DESIRE FOR A MUCH MORE DIRECTIVE INFLUENCE ON VOLAG OPERATION. WE BELIEVE AVITSOUR'S REMARKS INDICATE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN US-GOI UNDERSTANDING REGARDING US VOLAG OPERATION UNDER MESRF AS OUTLINED BY STATE 95673. OUR VIEW IS THAT U.S. SHOULD ATTEMPT TO KEEP VOLAG OPERATION ON WEST BANK ON SAME BASIS AS THEY WERE PRIOR TO ANERA BROCHURE FLAP.
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